



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

Founded 1827 ----- "Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future"

[/www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/)

Dear Friends,

I recently attended a memorial service for a man who was eulogized as having had great skill as a coach in both basketball and life.

I listened intently hoping to glean what I could from the words his loving brother spoke, for just recently it had dawned on me that in this phase of my time here as interim pastor, my role should be one of coach rather than "player." But then it came to me that all pastors should be coaches and that indeed at times even the members of the congregation are called upon to be coaches. So in this letter I would like to say a few words about coaching in our community of faith, this church



At its core, coaching is about relationships. It is about connecting people to their highest aspirations, potential, and passions. Coaching is a means by which we can help people plug in to their dreams, calling, and design, and help them discover the actions that will move them forward.

A church is a place where these connections can be made. Ask people for their definition of church, and responses will be varied, ranging from the Body of Christ to the building with the steeple. But actually we can simply look to Matt. 9: 9-13 for Jesus' own definition which can be paraphrased as imperfect people who know they needed a Savior, working together to build relationships, help those in need, and to glorify God by striving to be like Christ and share His love with others.

Churches may not be businesses or basketball teams, but they have a purpose for their existence and a responsibility to their community, in deed to the world, and they have a need to succeed. I do believe that adding coaching to the skill set will be of benefit to all as we transition to a culture of coaching culture.

Bill Copper the author of *Faith Coaching* writes that coaching is a mindset – a fundamental belief in the worth, capabilities and motivation of others. Coaches believe in other people and their value which includes their inherent set of talents passion and potential.

In a church, coaching is interacting with people as Christ did with his disciples as he modeled being patient, kind, aware, awake, inclusive, supportive, encouraging, and empowering. It includes asking questions, really listening, action planning and giving affirmation.

What would this church be like if all were intentional about their gifts and how they might be used for the betterment of this blessed community?

I will have printouts in the office for anyone interested in learning more about coaching. Our goal may be heaven on earth, but the joy can also be in the journey.

"Set your compass in a chosen direction and then focus your attention and efforts completely on the journey of preparation. A successful journey is where your real accomplishment lies." – **Coach John Wooden**

Blessings,

Pastor Beth

DUANE WELCH (1930 – 2018)

Duane Welch passed away on September 11, 2018, at the age of eighty-eight. He was born March 28, 1930, and was raised in Corning, NY. After attending the University of Colorado, he served in the US Navy before going to work for Corning Incorporated. He worked for Corning Inc. for some forty-two years, serving in a number of capacities and travelling around the world many times. Duane was an integral part of our faith community. He sang in our choir for over forty years, was a vital member of our Worship Committee, and was instrumental in a number of projects within our church. Duane is survived by his wife, June, son, Craig, and by his two granddaughters. He was a good man, a friend to all in our congregation, and he will be missed.

DUDLEY SHEA (1927 – 2018)

Dudley Shea passed away on October 7, 2018, at the age of eighty-three. He was born on November 17, 1934, in Corning, NY. He graduated from Corning Northside High School. A gifted athlete, especially in baseball, Dudley was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers during his senior year. He later served in the US Army and, after his military service, attended the Cornell Culinary School. Dudley was an Elder in our church, serving on our Session and as a member of the Property Committee. He is survived by his wife, Marie, daughters Lisa and Tara, and by three grandchildren. Dudley was one of life's "good guys," and we will miss him.

Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The approach of the holiday season serves as a reminder that we are surely blessed to be part of a warm, vibrant, and caring community of faith. As we give thanks for our many blessings, let us also take time to reach out and hold in our prayers those in our community who find the holiday season difficult because of issues of loss, loneliness, and stress. As always, our church has been a very place.

Some recent highlights included:

- **Harper Grey Aiosa**, daughter of **Dave and Meg (Howells) Aiosa** and granddaughter of **Bill Howells**, was baptized during our morning worship service on September 30.
- A number of our member volunteers worked with a Habitat for Humanity project on September 29-30.
- Our "Shared Blessings" local mission outreach group continues to work to help others. .
- A great deal of "behind the scenes" work is necessary to keep our church humming. Special thanks to **Pat Fitzgerald** and our Property Committee for all they do!
- Thanks to **our Pastor Nominating Committee members** for all their hard work!
- A Fundraising Committee has been working to plan a variety of initiatives – watch for news!
- Special thanks go to **Nancy Compton**, who recently retired from her role as our Director of Music, following eleven years of dedicated service!
- Thank you to **Jose Gomez**, who has led our choir for the past month. **Jean Tedrick** will become our new Director of Music in mid-November.

The sympathy of our church is extended to **Stewart Potter** on the passing of his brother Don. We also extend our sympathy to the families of **Duane Welch** and **Dudley Shea**. Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Judith Gilbert, Alissa Jolley, Cindy Smith (sister of Pat Seem), Henry and Joyce Schurr, Neal Gummo, Martin Gromer, Kay Wolcott, Steve French, Cindy & Ed Leisenring, Brandon Davis (nephew of Sheila French and Lisa McGill), Denise Wiskowski (sister of Debbie French), Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Ginnie Schweizer, Marie Shea, Dorothy Bartlett**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes. Please remember our shut-ins, and please continue to pray for our servicemen and women and their families and for peace in our troubled world. Please remember our shut-ins, and please continue to pray for our servicemen and women and their families and for peace in our troubled world.

Do you have a special joy or concern that you would like to share with our faith community? See Pastor Beth or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.

MEN TO FIX THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

Calling all breakfast gourmets! It's time for that once-a-year culinary experience! That's right – the men of our church are getting ready to prepare and serve our annual **Thanksgiving Day breakfast (8:00 AM, November 22)**. Muffins will be supplied by the women of our congregation. **Paul Holland** (and his guitar) will join us. We are looking for (more than) a few good men to help set-up, prepare, serve, and clean up after our annual feast. Sign-up sheets will be posted in early November, and we could really use your help. All are welcome to attend as good food, fine fellowship, and music will make for a special Thanksgiving morning. This is one event that you do not want to miss!

Let's reach out to others on this special day --please bring an item (or more) of canned food for our Food Pantry when you come for breakfast.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE TO START SOON

Stewardship Season 2018 will soon be here. Please keep an eye out for your pledge letter and give prayerful consideration to your response. In this, our 191st Anniversary year, let our stewardship – time, talent, and financial support toward the church – reflect our pride in our past and continued faith in our future.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Recent Property Committee projects have included:

- Repaving of main church parking lot
- Replacement of wheel chair ramp with composite materials. (no more painting)
- Installation of industrial surge suppressor for the two main circuit panels
- Ongoing management of water and mold remediation followed by full insulation under sanctuary floor
- Continued care of outside property – mowing, weeding and bush trimming, and leaf cleanup
- Monthly roof inspection
- Repairing gutter along the east side of the Church House
- Replacing ballasts and fluorescent tubes in our kitchen and social room
- Continued attention to our scheduled maintenance list items.



Your help and financial support are always welcome. See Pat Fitzgerald or any committee member to find out how you can become involved.

CELLAR PROJECT UPDATE

The ServPro project of cellar and basement clean-up is drawing to a close. The mold, caused by a malfunction of the sump pump, plus ground water seepage after heavy rains, has been mitigated. Any contaminated property has been discarded (example: lumber) or properly cleaned (example: the Christmas trees). Final testing is being done to be sure all areas are completely safe before ServPro considers the job done. Next, insulation must be replaced under the sanctuary; the property committee is currently obtaining quotes to complete this part of the project. Finally, new dehumidifiers will be purchased to maintain a dry environment and air quality. **(NOTE: WE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF THESE DEHUMIDIFIERS COULD BE DONATED BY MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION. TALK TO MARY CHURCHILL OR ANY PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR MORE INFORMATION.)**

The costly but necessary expense of this project reminds us that our church basement is for necessary storage and cannot be a collection site for unwanted items. The Boy Scouts will no longer be storing anything in the basement. Rummage sale collection will only take place during designated times shortly before the time of the sale.

THIS WAS AN UNANTICIPATED AND VERY EXPENSIVE PROJECT. ANY DONATIONS TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED. DONATIONS, DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING FUND, MAY BE PLACED IN THE OFFERTORY PLATES OR SENT DIRECTLY TO OUR CHURCH. THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT BIG FLATS PRESBYTERIAN

A very special holiday season is in store for our community of faith. Events include:

DECEMBER 2 – SILENT AUCTION – Our annual fundraiser and luncheon

DECEMBER 16 – HANGING OF THE GREENS – Our “Hanging of the Greens” celebration will be held on Sunday, December 10. We will decorate our Christmas tree, and we will join together to sing Christmas Carols. **It would be great if each person could bring a special ornament to hang on our tree!**

DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held at **7:00 PM**, on **Monday, December 24**. There will be special music throughout the service. It will be a truly joyful evening for all!

The Christmas season is always special at Big Flats First Presbyterian Church! Please plan to share this wonderful time with us. All are welcome.



POINSETTIAS: Those who wish to place Christmas poinsettias in our church “in honor of” or “in memory of” should contact Dean’s at 562-8120. The price is \$15.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

The Big Flats Community Food Pantry, housed in our church, relies on the generous support of our local community to help fulfill its mission of service to those in need. This December, we will once again ask members of our church family to help. We will be seeking donations of fruit for holiday fruit baskets, and we will be also looking for volunteers to “Ring the Bell” at Miniers Supermarket during the day on **Monday, December 24**. Please help our Big Flats Community Food Pantry. Sign-up sheets will be available in church on December for bell ringing and for fruit donations.



SILENT AUCTION SET FOR DECEMBER 2

Here's a chance to do some holiday shopping and help our church budget. This year's **Silent Auction** will take place on **Sunday, December 2**. Please prepare your baked goods, holiday treats, crafts, etc. for sale at our auction, which will follow our morning worship service. **Ann Slowik** has planned a special fellowship luncheon to coincide with this event. Please join us!



FUNDRAISING NEWS

SUPER SUPPERS: Our church will host a series of Wednesday evening “Super Suppers” starting on **November 14**, with a Spaghetti Dinner, and continuing on **December 12** (Chicken Pot Pie), **January 9** (Meat Loaf), and **February 13** (Roast Turkey). Food will be served from 5:00 – 7:00 each evening, and take-out meals will be available. The cost has been set at \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS: Our first Pancake breakfast for the 2018-2019 season will take place on Saturday morning, **November 17**, from 8:00 – 10:00. Dates for future breakfasts, along with complete details will be announced.

A NOTE ABOUT COMMUNITY: In addition to raising money for our church, our series of breakfasts and suppers will provide opportunities for us to grow as a faith community. It is hard to measure the benefits that come from working together and enjoying each other's company, but these benefits are real (and are more important than raising money)! Please answer the call for volunteers by signing up to help on any (or all) of these events. We need and welcome all volunteers. We have jobs for everyone – come and share your joy by being part of **your** Big Flats First Presbyterian team.

WE NEED YOU!

PNC UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has the ultimate responsibility for nominating a minister to the congregation for election as our next pastor. The work of the PNC involves many different tasks and responsibilities as we work our way through the call process.

In October, we placed a classified ad in the bi-monthly magazine, "Presbyterians Today," to attract possible self-referring candidates who might read our ad and be drawn to this area and more specifically, to our church. Also, PNC member Jenny Dean contacted all seven of the Presbyterian Seminaries and arranged to have our ad posted on their individual websites. Our ad was posted as well on the Presbytery of Geneva website for a broader reach. This was all in addition to having our Minister Information Form (MIF) posted on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). As of October 15th, our MIF had received 89 hits on the CLC website.

To date, the PNC has viewed and evaluated a total of seventeen Personal Information Forms (PIFS) from a variety of candidates with various levels of experience. During the process of discernment, this list gets narrowed down through personal interviews and eventually, candidates are brought to a neutral pulpit where the PNC can hear them preach.

Your PNC has been meeting weekly now for months and more recently, bi-weekly, in order to interview each potential candidate via Skype, which is a video phone call. Each potential candidate has undergone two Skype sessions. During the first scheduled interview, he or she has been asked to respond to questions which are of a somewhat general nature or in some cases, more specific to our church.

The second Skype interview had the candidate answer a series of theological questions which were e-mailed to them in advance. We are happy to report to all of you that we have been told by the candidates who were interviewed so far that our theological questions are "excellent...better than most," "very engaging questions" and that "they show a real concern for connecting faith to every aspect of life!"

Your PNC members have also been very diligent in their efforts to contact all of the references listed on the PIF for any potential candidate. They generally did this as teams of two so as to not miss anything said by the reference who had been contacted. Our Presbytery also has conducted a Presbytery-to-Presbytery reference check for any potential candidate who we hope to bring to a neutral pulpit in our area. Additionally, potential candidates are told at this point that it is important for them to contact our references as well in order for the process to continue to move forward.

Especially at this exciting time as the PNC continues to move forward in a very positive way, we strongly encourage all members of the congregation to look at the enlarged flow chart for the call process which is posted on our church house bulletin board. As we are proceeding through the various required tasks on the chart, we have marked a large X through each box once that task has been completed. This allows all of you to see what the PNC has already accomplished while at the same time letting you see what we still have ahead of us to complete.

Remember that your PNC always has our church's best interests in mind as we travel through the often challenging and time consuming process of discernment in our search for the right person to be our new pastor.

Please continue to keep the PNC in your prayers, and also remember that it is "God's own choice" who will be our next pastor.

With faith and hope,

Pat Seem

PNC Chairperson

PNC Committee Members: **Jenny Dean, Pat Fitzgerald, Sheila French, Ann Hayes, Rocky Peters, Mark Slowik** COM
Liaison: **Rehana Stanley**



**PASTOR
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

"SHOWER FOR MARY" & "GIFTS FOR JOSEPH" MISSION EFFORT ANNOUNCED

For the past seventeen years, our congregation has generously supported our "Shower for Mary" local mission effort during the season of Advent. In this program we have collected a variety of items for personal care and other needs for women and children served by the **Salvation Army Safehouse**. The Salvation Army Safehouse provides a comprehensive program for victims of domestic violence. Services offered include emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, information/referrals, hotline services, justice system information and accompaniments, support group, and community education. For information: call **732-1979**.



Seven years ago we expanded our outreach efforts through a "Gifts for Joseph" program to help men served by the **Samaritan Center**. The Samaritan Center has been assisting individuals and families in need with emergency food, clothing, and prescription drug assistance for over thirty years. This program also facilitates enrollment to Medicaid, Family Health Plus & Child Health Plus and provides referrals to other resources and support services for longer term solutions. The Samaritan Center is located at **380 Main St., Elmira (734-4898)**.

We need your support! Your donated items (**unwrapped please**) can be placed in the collection bins located in the rear of our sanctuary and in the narthex each Sunday throughout the Advent season (**December 2 - 23**).

Needs for the Safehouse ("Shower for Mary"):

These donations are for women/children and include the following:

- Gift sets for women (perfumes, soaps, lotions, etc.) ~ Watches for women
- Radio Alarm Clocks
- Craft items for teenagers (water color paints, bead sets, etc.)
- Family and children board games ~ Activity books (children & adult)
- Gift cards (\$10-\$20 recommended – grocery or general merchandise)
- Paper towels, napkins, paper plates
- Family oriented DVD's
- Journals / pen sets ~ Stationary gift sets / stamps
- Personal items such as hair brushes ~ deodorant ~ hairspray
- Towels ~ Twin sheet sets ~ pillows (new)
- New (packaged) underwear, bras & socks (all sizes – women and children)
- Disposable diapers (size 3/ 4/ 5 / 6) ~ baby wipes ~ sippie cups ~ pacifiers
- Cash or check donations (made payable to **Salvation Army Safehouse**)

Due to limited space we cannot accept used household items, clothing or furniture.

Please be assured our residents' needs are being met in this area.

Needs for the Samaritan Center ("Gifts for Joseph"):

These donations are for men and families and include the following:

- Cleaning supplies (unopened)
- Can openers (non-electric)
- Diapers & baby items (unopened)
- Food (non-expired -- unopened)
- Linens -- blankets, pillows, towels, single/twin sheets, etc. (new)
- Men's personal care items -- razors, deodorant, shaving cream, etc. (unopened)
- Paper Products -- paper towels, toilet paper, etc. (unopened)
- Underwear, socks, hats (new) & Seasonal clothing -- all sizes (new or gently used)
- Cash or check donations (made payable to **The Samaritan Center**)

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity in supporting our Advent outreach mission. What a wonderful way to experience the true meaning of Christmas! **Bill Howells** is coordinating our "Shower for Mary" and "Gifts for Joseph" programs and can answer any questions (**962-1146**).

SHARED BLESSINGS!

A COMMUNITY BASED GIVING AND SHARING PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

The "Shared Blessings" program at our church is working hard to provide a "no cost/low cost" store for local people who are in need of clothing, personal hygiene supplies, some home goods, and other supplies. This will be housed in the upstairs Sunday School area over our church kitchen. We are asking the community to get involved, whether that be donations or volunteering or simply keeping your ears and eyes open for someone who is in need. We hope to work through referrals from the local community or companies. We are hoping that this becomes infectious and we will be able to get the whole community involved, not just our church members. Most of us are very fortunate, but there are plenty of people in our own community that do need help.

As we continue to work this out we have also decided to tackle a community mission project each month. In recent months:

- A Mother's Day Crib was filled with donations and given to a deserving young single mother in our community.
- Goodie Bags were filled with homemade cookies and given to the Horseheads Bus Garage and the Big Flats Elementary School.
- Volunteers from our church passed out free nutritious lunches to children at Blandford Park in Elmira.
- Volunteers from our church partnered with Corning Incorporated to offer a picnic at the Bath VA Hospital for our Veterans.
- We have just completed our "Shoe Drive" project by collecting pairs of shoes to help other countries develop entrepreneurial experience as well as providing shoes at a low cost to their communities.
- In October, we collected socks for distribution by local agencies. Socks are the most-requested items at homeless shelters and clothing distribution centers.

We welcome all people who would like to volunteer for any of these projects, as well as ideas and donations of all kinds for our future missions! If you are interested please call the church at (607) 562-8048 and leave a detailed message on the answering machine on how you can help and we will get back to you as soon as possible! With many hands we can do great work for our local community!





WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop #87

REMINDER:
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4.
DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 3.

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 4	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 4	Holy Communion
November 10 (Sat.)	"Scouting for Food" – benefits our Food Pantry
November 11 (Sun.)	Veterans Day
November 11	Worship Committee will meet
November 14 (Wed.)	Spaghetti Supper – 5:00 – 7:00
November 14 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet (schedule subject to change)
November 16 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 - 10:00 AM
November 22 (Thurs.)	Thanksgiving Breakfast – 8:00 AM
November 25	"Pennies from Heaven"
December 2	First Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion
December 9	'Hanging of the Greens' – we will decorate our tree and sanctuary
December 12 (Wed.)	Chicken Pot Pie Supper – 5:00 – 7:00
December 16	Congregational meeting to elect Session Elders (following morning service)
December 16	Worship Committee will meet
December 19 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service – 7:00 PM
December 30	"Pennies from Heaven"
December 30	Deadline for articles for January/February <u>RED DOOR</u>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Property Committee	November 14 (Wed.) & December 19 (Wed.) – 6:00 PM
Church Session	November 14 (Wed.) & December 19 (Wed.) – 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	November 11 & December 16 — following morning worship